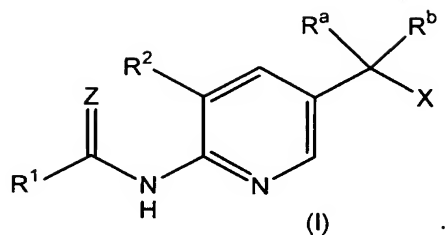


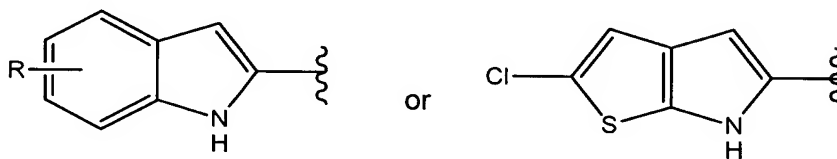
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)



5 a stereoisomer or prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, stereoisomer, or prodrug, wherein:

R¹ is



10 wherein R represents, independently, from 1-3 of hydrogen; -NH₂; -CN; -NO₂; halogen; -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; or -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy;

R² is -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy;

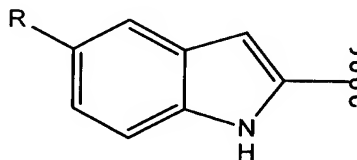
R^a and R^b are -CH₃ or -OH, provided R^a and R^b are not both -OH;

X is -CH₂OH; -COOR^c, wherein R^c is hydrogen or -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; or -CON(heterocycloalkyl); and

15 Z is O or S.

2. A compound of claim 1, wherein:

R¹ is



20 wherein:

R is halogen;

R² is -OCH₂CH₃;

R^a is -CH₃ and R^b is -OH;

X is $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ or $-\text{COOR}^c$, wherein R^c is hydrogen or $-(\text{C}_1\text{--}\text{C}_6)\text{alkyl}$; and
Z is O.

3. A compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

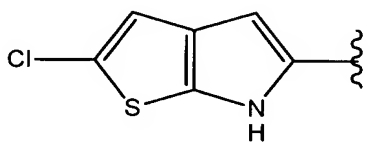
5-chloro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid-[5-(1,2-dihydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl)-3-ethoxy-pyridin-2-yl]-amide;

2-{6-[(5-chloro-1H-indole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-5-ethoxy-pyridin-3-yl}-2-hydroxy-propionic acid; and

2-{6-[(5-chloro-1H-indole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-5-ethoxy-pyridin-3-yl}-2-hydroxy-propionic acid ethyl ester, a stereoisomer or prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, stereoisomer, or prodrug.

4. A compound of claim 1, wherein:

R^1 is



R^2 is $-OCH_2CH_3$;

R^a is $-\text{CH}_3$ and R^b is $-\text{OH}$;

X is -COOR^c, wherein R^c is hydrogen or -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; and

Z is O.

5. A compound of claim 1 which is:

2-{6-[(2-chloro-6H-thieno[2,3-b]pyrrole-5-carbonyl)-amino]-5-ethoxy-pyridin-3-yl}-2-hydroxy-propionic acid, a stereoisomer or prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, stereoisomer, or prodrug.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, a stereoisomer or prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, stereoisomer, or prodrug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle, or diluent.

7. A method of treating atherosclerosis, diabetes, insulin resistance, diabetic neuropathy, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts, hypercholesterolemia, hypertriglyceridemia, hyperlipidemia, hyperglycemia, hypertension, tissue ischemia, or myocardial ischemia, which method comprises
- 5 administering to a mammal in need of such treatment, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, a stereoisomer or prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, stereoisomer, or prodrug; or a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound of claim 1, or said stereoisomer or prodrug thereof, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said
- 10 compound, stereoisomer, or prodrug, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle, or diluent.
8. A method of claim 7, wherein said condition is diabetes.
- 15 9. A method of inhibiting glycogen phosphorylase which method comprises administering to a mammal in need of such inhibition, a glycogen phosphorylase inhibiting amount of a compound of claim 1, a stereoisomer or prodrug thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, stereoisomer, or prodrug; or a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound of claim 1, or said
- 20 stereoisomer or prodrug thereof, or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, stereoisomer, or prodrug, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle, or diluent.